

## **Minutes of the Bloomington Township Board**

A moment of silence was held to acknowledge the passing of Board member Bill Sturbaum.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. on November 12, 2015, at 1500 W. 15<sup>th</sup> Street.

Board members present were Barbara McKinney and Kim Alexander. Also present were Trustee Lillian Henegar, Fire Chief Faron Livingston, and Deputy Trustee Lisa Myers. Todd Lare, Nicole Wooten, and Doug Wilson from South Central Community Action Program (SCCAP) were also in attendance.

### **AGENDA**

The agenda was amended to include rescheduling the December Board meeting.

Kim moved to accept the agenda as amended. Barbara seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES**

Kim moved to accept the minutes of the October 8, 2015, board meeting as presented. Barbara seconded, motion passed unanimously.

### **OLD BUSINESS - None**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2016 BTVFD Contract:** Lillian reported the 2016 contract is identical to the 2015 contract, including the amount payable. Kim asked who monitors contract compliance. It was reported that Faron monitors the day to day compliance, while Lisa monitors compliance of the reporting requirements. Kim moved to approve the contract as presented. Barbara seconded, motion passed unanimously. The contract was signed by the Board and the Trustee.

**Temporary Loan Between Funds:** Lillian explained the need to transfer \$120,000 from the Rainy Day Fund to the Fire Fund to ensure we have a positive cash balance until we receive our property tax settlement in December. Barbara questioned when the loan would be repaid and Lisa confirmed the transfer would be made as soon as the property tax settlement is deposited in to the Township's bank account. Kim moved to approve the Transfer Resolution. Barbara seconded, motion passed unanimously. The Transfer Resolution was signed by the Board and the Trustee.

**Reschedule December Board Meeting:** The meeting scheduled for December 10, 2015, needs rescheduled in order to have a quorum present. Lillian recommended the meeting be rescheduled for Thursday, December 17. Barbara and Kim agreed the date was acceptable. The meeting will be held at 5:30 on Thursday, December 17, at the Township office.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **GROWING OPPORTUNITIES PRESENTATION**

Todd Lare, SCCAP Executive Director, gave an overview of the programs available through SCCAP. Those programs include energy assistance, Head Start, Thriving Connections (previously known as Circles), and Growing Opportunities.

Doug Wilson, SCCAP Director of Communications and Development, explained that Growing Opportunities was modeled after a program from Northwest New Jersey called Arthur and Friends. Arthur and Friends was created by a woman who wanted to help her nephew with Down's syndrome find meaningful employment. The SCCAP program decided not to focus on those with developmental challenges but instead to help people with all sorts of barriers to obtaining employment. The 20 week program is designed to get people into a workplace and teach them transferrable job skills. Specific work skills include planting and harvesting, cleaning and maintenance, and harvesting and packaging. Additionally, training is provided in soft skills such as showing up to work, showing up on time, how to dress appropriately, and resolving workplace conflicts.

Nicole Wooten explained that program participants are only in the greenhouse for 5 – 6 hours per week. The remainder of the time, they are in a classroom environment learning how to create a resume or complete an application, and developing interview skills or elevator speeches to use whenever an opportunity arises. Nicole discussed the projected operating budget for the program. The long term plan to make the program self-sufficient includes the operation of three (3) greenhouses. At this time, the participants are not being paid, but SCCAP hopes to provide wages when all three (3) greenhouses are operational. Currently all produce is being sold, and SCCAP states there will never be enough locally produced lettuce to satisfy the market.

Barbara asked about the location of the septic lines and Nicole replied that SCCAP is willing to pay to have those located if they receive conditional approval to move forward with the project, subject to confirming the septic lines are not in the proposed construction area. SCCAP confirmed that they would pay for the utilities for the greenhouse. Nicole went over the proposed timeline. Utilities would be installed in January 2016. The site plan, construction bidding, and site prep would occur between February and June of 2016. Construction would begin in July or August, and the greenhouse would be operational in September 2016.

Barbara summarized the points against allowing the greenhouse construction as parking issues, septic line location, increased use of the restrooms, parking lot congestion, and using unpaid workers in the greenhouse.

Kim moved to conditionally approve the construction of a greenhouse on Township property subject to locating the septic field, determining the property line, and creating an acceptable legal contract. Barbara seconded, motion passed unanimously.

## REPORTS

**Trustee:** The Township has two (2) interns this semester. Madi Taylor who is assisting with the Heading Home Plan to End Homelessness and working a half day each week at the Township's front desk. Yuan Li who is working on creating a budget forecast report which we hope to present to the Board in December or January.

Lillian invited a group of Bloomington Township residents to help determine how to distribute the Community Grants for 2015. After discussion, the recipients were determined to be Volunteers in Medicine; New Leaf, New Life; and Stepping Stones. If there are additional funds remaining at year end, grants will also be given to Thriving Connections, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and Amethyst House. A grant of \$1,000 was already given to Community Kitchen earlier this month. Kim asked if the Community Sheltering Project (formerly Martha's House) is expecting the same amount of funding next year. Lillian replied that the Township has made no commitments at this time.

The Township is moving forward in retaining Paige Sansone of Umbaugh, to assist in establishing a fire territory. Joel and Lisa are currently working on establishing a five (5) year budget for the territory.

The Democratic Party will hold a caucus on Saturday, December 5, to elect a replacement for the open seat on the Township Board.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17.

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Kim Alexander, Secretary